

Division I-7

Section

No.

SCC
8629



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2015

THE AFRICAN REPOSITORY.

VOL. LXII. WASHINGTON, D. C., JANUARY, 1886. No. 1.

For the African Repository.

MY FIRST VISIT TO LIBERIA, [CONCLUDED.]

BY DR. JAMES HALL.

THE PEOPLE OF LIBERIA. A good opportunity offered for "first impressions" of the people of Liberia, *collectively*, as I arrived just before the annual holidays—Christmas and New Years—when there was a grand assembling of the people from the upper river settlements and from the various trading stations along the coast and inland. Religious meetings, military parades, and dinner parties were the order of the day, and all of gay life in Liberia was displayed. Of their religious observances I will not now speak; of their military parade and drill, I am no judge; all seemed to go off well, with the usual strut-fuss and feather. I attended a dinner party given by Governor Mechlin, at which some eighteen or twenty public officers and the more distinguished citizens were at the table, giving me a fair opportunity for observation. The Governor presided, with quiet dignity; the Vic-Agent or Lieut.-Governor, A. D. Williams, at the other end or foot of the table. No foreigners were present, except an old German skipper of the "Margaret Mercer," and myself. The entire company seemed to be at their ease, self-possessed; quite enough so perhaps; no awkwardness apparent, and no gaucherie committed. The conversation was free, sometimes general across the table, and then more private between parties near, and mostly of local character, business or social. The dinner lasted some two hours or more, dining and winning, and several volunteer toasts were offered, as, "The (our) Governor;" "The Colonization Society;" "Liberia;" "Commerce and Agriculture;" finally winding up with "The *Fair* of Liberia;" which last created significant and not pleasant looks on the part of some very dark gentlemen present. The Governor very adroitly came to the rescue by suggesting to the proposer an amendment, "'The Fair *Sex* of Liberia,' you doubtless meant?" "*Certingly*, sir; yes sir;" and all was satisfactory. *Fair* is a specific term with Liberians, signifying the shade of color; as "a little fair; *quite* fair; *very* fair; almost

white, and so on." As the party broke up, I could not but reflect, that I had been in a company of well-mannered, well-bred gentlemen, "who had sat at good men's feasts" and wiped champagne from their lips, if not "tears of tender pity from their eyes." It should be admitted, however, that there was a little too much swell—an occasional misuse of tall words—grandiloquous, perhaps better expresses its character. There was no gabble or chatter, and no vestige of what Carlyle would term "quasheeism"—all of that left behind.

This qualifying the deportment of colored people either in this country or Liberia seems absurd at the present time. It is an admitted fact, that of the same class, position or calling, the African entire or of mixed blood, is *better mannered* than any of European race, the French excepted.

I subsequently attended dinner parties where females were present, the lady of the house presiding. As might be expected, there was less formality, more sociability, jollity even, and yet all with propriety and good taste, testifying that the gentlemen were well mated; but those justly entitled to be classed as ladies, fell short of the number of gentlemen.

Here I may be permitted to introduce my later experience at a State dinner in Liberia, where I happened to be on a visit in the holiday season of 1858.

It was given by President Benson, not in the old Agency House but in the President's MANSION, the "White House" of the Republic: in a large hall of the second story, the walls of which were drap'd with flags of several foreign nations. Something near or over one hundred guests were present, Mr. Benson presiding, with that courtesy and dignity for which he was distinguished above all other Liberians of early or later times. The company included the members of the Legislature, then in session, from the several counties, the heads of the several departments of the Government, the judges of the Courts, General of the military forces, two Foreign consuls, several officers of a United States vessel, then in port, and private citizens of respectability, amongst whom were ex-President Roberts, three educated physicians of Liberia, and several ministers of the gospel, *in charge*. All were in citizens dress, except the British consul, commodore Cooper of the Liberian Navy and the U. S. Naval officers. It is unnecessary to say that order prevailed. I was obliged to leave early to avoid a dessert of malaria with other excipients, as the dining hour was fashionably late: and "in the night season the pestilence walketh abroad."

A few days later I attended another dinner party at the house of one of the "*Merchant Princes*," of Monrovia, at which ladies were present. Some fifty guests sat at the table, amongst whom were sev-

eral officers of an English vessel of war, then in the roadstead, who had spent the morning on a shooting excursion up the river with our host. This party might be considered more select than that of the President, although many were present at both. It is needless to say, that the entire conduct of the party was of the highest order: that no person of foreign birth and breeding, however eminent, if present, would have felt himself or herself out of place in a social point of view. For myself and my party, ladies included, we were content with equal social rank.

Coupling the several entertainments at which I have been present in Liberia's Capital, a quarter of a century intervening, they not only indicate the improvement of the people in their social relations, but give evidence of a corresponding change in every respect; their political status, their advance in commerce, education and all that constitutes modern civilization.

The dinner of Governor Mechlin might be considered as a little family party, consisting of personal friends, daily encountered in business or official relations. The gathering at President Benson's gave evidence of the existence of a NATION; small indeed, of limited population and power, but thoroughly organized, a perfect autonomy, *sole* and *absolute*, and so recognized, then and there, by the representatives of foreign nations with all insignia of their authority.

Having thus briefly introduced the *elite* of Liberia society to my readers, due allowance being made for the political demagogues, not a few, at the President's dinner; I now propose to speak of them *en masse—the people*.*

* As the REPOSITORY circulates in Liberia, it may interest the present generation to look through a catalogue of such citizens of Monrovia only, as I am able to call to mind: no reference had to the river settlements or to immigrants subsequently settling in Monrovia.

Joseph Mechlin, Jr. Agent and Governor, * Anthony D. Williams, Agent or Lieutenant Governor; Wm. L. Weaver, Colonial Secretary; John B. Russwurm, private Secretary to the Governor and editor of the *Liberia Herald*; * Elijah Johnson, storekeeper; Jacob Prout, Register; I. Shaw, Port Officer; J. J. Roberts, High Sheriff; * John Revey, School Teacher; James C. Barbour, Major Commanding; Joshua and William Stewart, Captains, Joshua Stewart and several others, Justices of the Peace.

COMMISSION MERCHANTS. *Waring and Taylor, Francis Devany, Dailey and Russwurm, Geo. R. McGill, Principal Traders; *Coin and *Hilary Teage, James C. Barbour, Hugh Nelson, John Chavers, *Cheeseman, *et al.*

CITIZENS. Stephen Benson, ——— Warner, Jacob Preston, John Hanson, I. D. Washington, Randolph and Reed Cooper, S. Draper, Daniel Hawkins, * John Day, * John Lewis, Dixon Brown, Anthony Wood, N. M. Hicks, ——— Blake, Fred'k Lewis, ——— Dungee, John Barber, ——— Holliday, ——— Hilliard, ——— Jackson, ——— Spencer, Jonas Carey, ——— Thompson, ——— Ruffin, ——— Higgins, and doubtless nearly as many more not readily called to mind. The younger males afterward well known, were Lewis and Charles Johnson, Samuel F. James, B. and Roszell McGill, Francis, * James S. and Beverly Payne, * John W. and Henry Roberts, John M. and Wm. Lewis, Stephen A. Benson, Beverly P. Yates, Daniel B. Warner, * Alfred F. Russell, John Chavers, Jr. Thomas Cooper, ——— Erskine, Jacob Preston, Jr., Wm. Prout, Wm. Kierle.

* Those designated by a star are preachers of the Gospel.

OF THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE LIBERIANS GENERALLY—RELIGION AND MORALS. They were the most religious people I ever met with, although born and bred a New Englander in the day of the later Puritans—closely following the time of Mathews, Edwards and others. So far as attending church, observance of the Sabbath, praying in public and in family, saying grace at table and exhorting in class-meetings and love-feasts, the avoidance of gross breaches of morality, as cursing, swearing, and rowdyism of any kind; they generally lived up to their profession. Those not members of churches were, in general, free from the vices above enumerated. Any approach to *profanity* was very rare. During my eighteen months sojourn there, I never heard, what Hotspur would designate as a “good round, mouth-filling oath.” ‘Tis not in the nature of an African to curse; the natives ever cringe at a curse, no doubt, fearing it might be effective; probably from a belief in witchery or voodooism: not yet having learned that “curses, like chickens, come home to roost,” of boomerang like, they hit back.

DRUNKENNESS OR TIPPLING. This vice was also very rare. I cannot call to mind more than one or two admitted toppers, and tippling, so common amongst young men, was not in fashion.

GAMES AND AMUSEMENTS. To complete the puritanic character of the Liberians at that date, exhibiting the anomaly of a puritan Negro, I never witnessed any game, such as ball, quoits, boat-racing or cards; nor did I ever hear any musical instrument, unless the rub-a-dub of a little red coated drummer could be so designated. Never a dance or ball heard of. Some year or two previously, as I was informed, an emigrant brought the first and only fiddle to the Colony, but it was at once banned and the owner too, by the leading citizen-preachers, who, it was said, prayed for his speedy departure. A “natural departure” followed, and the instrument was destroyed. Later however, in 1833, the Bark “Hercules” landed a very intelligent body of people from Charleston, with quite a band along, but which I am sorry to say, played the dead march to many of their number; and a *dead* march I felt it to be, as I was then *at the gate*.

It should not be inferred that they lacked enjoyment, *social* enjoyment, such as calling in, visiting, walking about in Sunday dress, and more than all, in religious exercises, love-feasts, open, decent embracing, especially singing; psalm and hymn singing, loud and long, with a “not go home till morning,” understood. One lady in the Baptist church, many a night kept me awake till twelve o’clock although two hundred yards distant. Remembrance of this night-charming induced me to offer afterwards a *proviso* to the section, as to “Freedom of religious worship,” in the Bill of the Rights of Maryland

in Liberia, "not disturbing the public peace in the exercises thereof" &c

I have thus briefly sketched the more obvious *favorable* characteristics of the Liberians, as they appeared to me at that day. It is now incumbent on me, as "an honest chronicler," to give the reverse side of the picture, although I would not assume to be a censor,

First, and most important, comes the relation between the sexes, marital and otherwise. Having characterized the Liberians as eminently a religious people, it is scarcely necessary to say that marriage, with all its rights and restrictions, was the ruling law and condition with all classes; and the mothers and daughters of the better class were as free from suspicion of unchastity as any "Caesar's wife." But it should be borne in mind that of the five thousand people of the Colony at that time, the greater part had been added within the last few years, perhaps within three; and, although many of the more early emigrants were comparatively of a higher character, enlisting before the colored people of this country had joined the Abolition crusade against Colonization; yet later, *any and every one* offering or offered by their masters, was accepted as emigrants. Amongst others thus indiscriminately gathering in, were many of a character more than doubtful. Adding but a sprinkling of such people, single females of all ages often unaccompanied by friends or relatives, the natural consequences followed; more or less improper and unlawful connection of the sexes, and that not confined to the lower class of males, either. But for this, Liberia could not be considered responsible; a voyage of forty or fifty days in the hold of a vessel, where an almost indiscriminate mingling of the sexes was unavoidable, could not be considered a school for improvement. It should be here set down to their credit, that even anterior to the change in their political status, society had become better organized; improved social relations were established, the lowest and most debased of this class had learned the value of character and the true meaning of the word *chastity*, as applied to colored people; a new discovery to them. For years past, it may be truthfully said, that the relation between the sexes in Liberia is quite as respectable and Christianlike as in any town or city in the tropical world.

TREATMENT OF THE NATIVES. From the earliest settlement of the colony the native population from along the coast and inland sought employment as laborers, in the bush, field, or as house servants; the latter, mainly boys from ten years up. There was scarcely a house in which, or about which, some of this class were not to be found; even when the employer was dependent upon the Agency or charity of individuals for support. The merest pittance in food or wages, or of the former alone, would often secure a servant appropriate to the style and station of the proprietor of the house or

shanty. The inducements to the natives were manifold; first, food, however meager, next, the wages, then the chance for theft, for which nothing came amiss, from a china bowl or a lady's dress, to a pia or dish-cloth; but above all, a desire to see high life or, as they termed it, to "larn America fash."

The consequence of this arrangement was an imperious deportment on the part of the master or mistress and an obsequious subservancy on the part of the servant. One of the lessons taught the colonists or many of them, in this country, was that of control, command, and even *gentle chastisement* on the part of their masters. The most ignorant and worthless imitated only, what they could comprehend, what was beat into them, and they now practiced the same on their inferiors; and apt scholars they proved themselves. Very true, the native servant could clear out if maltreated, in case he belonged near the settlement, but not otherwise, and I have but too often seen the cuff, kick or blow, to my indignation. To continue the parallel, I may add, that this was not practiced except by the lower class of colonists—the "*Legrees*."

THE FACTORY SYSTEM, as it might be termed, also had a most injurious effect, not only upon the morals of the factors, but upon commerce; in transferring the seat or what should be the mart of trade, from the capital or settlement, to native towns in the interior or along the coast. In addition to the demoralization of the factors and injury to trade, it had a most baneful effect upon the influence of the colony with the petty native chiefs and their people. When the colonial factor took up his residence in the native town, he was not only forced to submit to their laws as a foreign resident, but often induced to swear allegiance to the King or head man of the town,—“hold the King's foot,” as they termed it: often accepting a temporary wife, of rank and birth proportioned to the value of his invoice. This arrangement for a time, perhaps, served to secure success in his trade, but ultimately, together with stealings and palavers sure to arise, broke him up and he returned to the colony a degraded and broken down man, besides having lowered the character of the colonists generally, in the estimation of the native people around. This was not the case with all factors. A few succeeded in business, and returning to the colony, established themselves as traders, drawing after them the productions of the people with whom they had sojourned.

IMPROVIDENCE AND EXTRAVAGANCE might be considered a characteristic of the colonists at that day—rather of the race I should say, wherever found. Fortunately, perhaps, the roads admitted of no outlay in horses and carriages, nor had tailors, mantua-makers and

milliners entered the little settlement, but yet they found ways and means of expenditure, if not of creating capital. Dinner parties and expensive furniture were availed of for making show and relieving plethora of the purse. For many items, one hundred dollars served to constitute the *plum* or limit in this way. It was the boasted figure of a dinner party, of a looking glass, of a dinner or parlor set. An English captain, one day, exhibited to me orders from three different parties, for dinner service or sets, at one hundred dollars each: and other things in proportion. This disposition to extravagance also ruled in furnishing their tables; a preference always given to imported articles of diet. The lack of vegetables in a vegetable-producing soil and climate was inexplicable. Cassada, yams, eddoes and even sweet potatoes and plantains were rarely seen on the tables of the gentry. Irish potatoes imported, or garden vegetables from foreign seeds were substituted. At that time palm oil was only used by the poorer class, and then after exhaling the savor by fire, used as a substitute for lard. Plantains, bananas and pineapples were not as plenty as they are now in our cities and, obtainable only, at near the same prices. A good market-house shed or even open ground, devoted to that purpose, was then a desideratum and for a long time after.

GENERAL EDUCATION AND LITERATURE. Schools for primary education only, were established in all the settlements, Monrovia, Caldwell and Millsburg: supported mainly by the Colonization Society, and generally well attended, much improving the rising generation. There was nothing at that day, which a distinguished American scholar later designated as "*Liberia Literature*." One man only, had received what is termed a liberal education, John B. Russwurm; and one *only*, Hilary Teage, could be called a *scholar*. In addition to these and the school teachers, I can reckon but three or four traders or merchant who could manufacture a decent business letter. I fear the orthography of all the school-teachers and the twenty preachers, would not bear a dictionary test. They talked by rote, and *rote* as they talked. They anticipated the phonetic system, in spelling. With the best class interest was "*intrust*." In answer to an attempt at correction, "Why no! I'm right, aint it for *trust* money?" Down or up the *coast* was written *course* (*coursing*, of course). A young lady of the best family ordered a *ridicule*. It was not an easy matter for a trader to translate orders received. Years after, when transferring an order received from one of the most energetic, successful, and yet most illiterate merchant trader, to my memorandum-book, I got stumped at figures like this: "I duson spanish swame sieur," a mental revolving, long extended, did not bring out the secret, but exclaiming aloud, in vexation

up came the well known nostrum, *Swain's Panacea*. Errors of this kind were common long after. Nothing like *literature* could be considered as flourishing, the seed only, in that day, sown, by the few elementary schools.

The Library established by Mr. Ashmun and figuring largely in his reports, I found to be a solitary, wooden structure some twenty feet square, surrounded by weeds and shrubs, with not even a pathway to it. After some inquiry, I found the key, which was kept in the kitchen of the Government house, as it there supplied the place of one lost, answering a double purpose of opening to both, bodily and mental pabulum. With some little difficulty I cleared the way and mounted the steps, opening the portal of this treasury of knowledge with some awe and apprehension, as I had been advised that centipedes and scorpions enjoyed free and full possession, literally feeding on knowledge of the past:—of these I found none nor was I disposed to make search, but in their stead, swarms of the big, winged, African roaches, which revelled and fed on the paste of the various tomes. There was barely room to wind around amongst the opened but half emptied boxes of books, received from time to time, for years; generally bibles from the *good* people, and obsolete old school books from others. One side of the room had shelves, which were crammed with unassorted volumes on side and on end; the floor and boxes holding the remainder. The greater bulk consisted of bibles, monoglots and polyglots of all versions and all sizes, from the neat little two vol. pocket edition, through all mo's to the great folios of Holbrook and Fessenden of Brattleboro, Vt., with its hideous wood cuts. Like water with the ancient mariner, 'twas "bible, bible everywhere, and nothing else to read." Of all, the Holbrook's was the most useful, as I often found its ample leaves used as wrappers by the shop-keepers and elsewhere. On suggesting the impropriety at least, of such use to one of the Liberia divines, a trader, so using it, the reply was; "many would never open a bible, and a stray leaf often leads to serious reflections and possibly conversion." Very possible, thought I, but the bible was surely converted to begin with. It is needless to say that I never again entered that Library, nor did I ever know of its key being called for at the kitchen door.

As I have taken upon me to contrast the state of society, that of the better class, of the early time with that of a later date, it might reasonably be expected that I would adopt a like course in regard to their literature. But I consider this quite unnecessary, especially in this journal, which has for more than half a century laid before its readers the various State papers of the seven successive Presidents of the Republic, besides the communications which such men as Bly-

den, Crummell and others have occasionally furnished. These may be considered as constituting Liberian Literature, before referred to.

I have endeavored thus to sketch the moral, social, and literary characteristics of the citizens of Monrovia as I found them, nothing extenuated or set down without consideration, *charitable* consideration. The truth to nature will be recognized, not only by Liberians, if any of that day be yet alive, but by American readers; so little changed were the people, in phases of character referred to, from what they evinced in this country at that date, and for years subsequent: all obtained in and during generations of servitude. Their original characteristics which most people are pleased to term *barbarous*, had become nearly extinct. The gain or loss I do not propose to discuss: but will here affirm, that the native Africans are a liberty-loving, free, proud, gentle and generous people, exhibiting less ferocity and treachery than any other, so called barbarous people, of ancient or modern times. What we find in the Liberians either of good or bad, based on such stock, is of American origin, either conferred, taught, picked up or stolen.

The great boon freely conferred, was Christianity, and that often spoken of even from the pulpit, as a full compensation for a life of servitude: politically designated as an *Institution*; morally, as a *school*. That it was freely conferred, even by masters, many of whom, were themselves ignorant of what personal, vital religion meant, the most censorious could not doubt. The *Godliness*, so conferred, was not only a blessing to the slave but rendered him, in every way, more profitable to his master, a better servant under the emphatic teaching of "*obedience to masters*;" and more valuable as an article of merchandise.

Emerson's phrase, "he builded better than he knew," finds a parallel in this best gift of the master to his servant. We can but faintly conceive the effect of the "news of salvation" to a human being, literally and absolutely, "without *hope* and without *God* in the world," deprived of his *will*, of every right under Heaven, even debarred by cruel laws from the pitying eye and the saving arm, that *would* relieve, to receive by authority of his master, the assurance that "this painful life ended," he might enjoy a state of blessedness granted to the highest, greatest, and best of this world, when the master and the servant, the bond and the free shall be as one, on the same level! To his heavenly master, the slave rendered no divided service, no mammon, no honor, power, fame to share his homage. The Christ who came to break the bonds of the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, who blessed the poor in spirit, the meek, whose dearest *friends were a beggar*, and his toiling sisters, who chose his disciples, from the lowly of this world, was especially *his Christ*, his only source of

joy and hope! Truly have I, therefore, characterised the *early* Liberians as emphatically a religious people.

In addition to Christianity, so freely given, they availed themselves of their association as servants, with American society in all relations of life, to note, mark learn and adopt, so far as practicable, all that appertains to our civilization, our politics, our commerce and our mechanic arts.

To benefits conferred and the knowledge picked up it remains to register their *thefts*—mainly confined to theft of the alphabet and the Arabic numerals—a double crime in the slave. Unlike their prototype, the “Children of Israel,” they, as a people, found little favor in the eyes of the Modern Egyptians, they bore away no jewels or other treasures. Freedom from unlawful control was all they hoped for in *their* Canaan, their *Fatherland*; trusting to the good faith of a people they had learned to love and honor even in their servitude—they *went out*.

It only remains for me to record their most distinguishing characteristic, that in which there has been no change, the leading trait of the Liberian, from the earliest date, when there was no *Liberia*, till they created it, to the present time, viz :

THEIR PATRIOTISM AND NATIONALITY. From the highest to the lowest, they appreciated their position as free citizens of a free government; their patriotism, pride of home and country, was their leading characteristic. Although but a few years on that Cape, yet they one and all considered it as securely their own and were proud that they at last could have a home, a country, even a Continent of their own people, all this the more deeply felt, in that it had been earned, secured through suffering and bloodshed. They had their tales of trial, their sojourn in the wilderness, their passage over Jordan, and their battles with the Philistines. The *Kadesh Barnea* of the people of each expedition, was the ship in which they came over, reference always had to the “good old ship Elizabeth,” the “Nautilus,” the “Strong,” “Harriet,” and so on. That they did suffer, fight and bleed, we all know, and we all know too, that underlying all, “as basis and as bourne,” everywhere and around, to be met and endured by all, was the coast fever, the main cause of the early disasters in the founding of Liberia. But, making allowance for all this, the general management of the undertaking, at home by the projectors, as well as by the Agents of its execution in Africa, was as bad as it could well be, and I briefly sum up without note or record before me, their continuous failures.

In the first place, two Agents were sent to explore the coast and select a place for settlement. They visited Sierra Leone, and recommended the swampy island of Sherbro. Two years after, the ship

"Elizabeth" their "*May Flower*," sailed from New York and landed her emigrants on that island. Near a year later, the "Nautilus" followed, and finding Sherbro abandoned and the emigrants scattered in Sierra Leone, and about deposited her passengers up the Sierra Leone river, at a careening-hole, called Fourah Bay. To sum up, something like two years from the dispatch of the "Elizabeth," the residue of the emigrants, by these two expeditions; were dumped on a sand spit, called Perseverance Island, at the confluence of the Mesurado river and Stockton creek, of not over two acres in extent, with a surface of bush and sand, a fair basking ground for alligators.

The entire proceeding was, thus far, favored by Mr. Monroe, who from time to time furnished no less than four naval vessels as convoys and protectors, viz: the Cyane, the John Adams, the Shark and Alligator: the latter of which, took out Dr. Ayres as United States and the Society's Agent, and who with the counsel and aid of Lt. Stockton, in command, purchased Cape Mesurado. Not less than ten Agents had been employed, six of them young clergymen or theological students: with two ladies along, wives of Agents: and near two years consumed; two Agents only remaining, the others having died or left for home. After gathering the emigrants from Fourah Bay, Freetown, and Sherbro, and depositing them as above stated, Dr. Ayres considered their condition so deplorable and entirely hopeless, that he advised their return to Sierra Leone, and the abandonment of the undertaking. But here appears the first spark of Liberia's independence. One emigrant, Elijah Johnson, protests, and virtually adopted the phrase attributed to another patriot, "Live or die—sink or swim," I will not budge another step.

Dr. Ayres left, taking several emigrants with him to Sierra Leone, A sub-agent, Mr. Wiltberger stayed but a short time with the emigrants left behind. Here they remained through the first severe rainy season—(three months of which was a steady pour down) in sand, water and wind, from January to July, by which time, with incredible labor, these few sickly, half-fed emigrants, not over thirty-five adult males in all, had cleared a small space and with the aid of some friendly natives on the Cape, erected a few thatch-covered shanties, and managed to transport their effects, provisions, arms, amunition, &c., thereto; the Agent having, in the meantime, left them to the care of Providence and Elijah Johnson, the latter characterised by him, as a "*trusty emigrant*;" pity they had not more *trusty Agents*. A month later, came the renowned hero and martyr of Liberia, the Rev. Jehudi Ashmun, in the brig "Strong" with emigrants and stores; a most timely and providential relief. Shortly after, followed the war, the great battle—the two battles, through which these few emigrants, mostly unused to arms,

even for self defense, founded a claim to absolute independence. These battles were described in detail by Mr. Ashmun at the time and created a great and universal interest throughout the world. I afterward had a version of the same from other participants therein—differing, mainly, in the substitution of the plural we, for the capital I. 'Tis but fair however, to say, that it was fortunate for the little colony that it had so brave and devoted a captain, as Ashmun, and for him, that he was so well supported and bravely defended. Fortunately too, two old *man-of-war's-men* were amongst the colonists, or the affair might have ended otherwise. Any description of the battles would too much extend this already too extended paper; but I will venture to affirm, that no record exists of an attack and defence of any town, fort or encampment, where the danger of destruction was more imminent, or more determined bravery evinced by the defenders. This then, in *Imperial* phrase was the "Baptism of Blood," the real foundation of the *nationality of Liberia*.

It may be said that they were forced to fight or die, fight for dear life and for lives dearer than their own, of their wives and children. But they had learned to resist, and what resistance meant, and the time soon came when they volunteered to fight, not for life or for their families but for those of their own race, against their natural enemies, the enemies of their country and of the human race,—the slave traders.

Everywhere around and about, the slave power was dominant. From Gallinas, one hundred miles to the windward, to Tradetown as far leeward, slave factories were established along the coast, and everywhere if not absolutely threatening the Colony, were exercising a most baneful influence. The two parties were antagonistic. The *crisis* was *impending*. The slaver knew that the Colony meant destruction to his traffic, so far as its influence extended. The colonists knew what *their trade meant*, hence war to the knife. Soon after the successful defence of the Cape, the slavers and their confere, the native kings, adopted a new policy; the hedging in, the establishment of slave factories around and outside the Cape, cutting the colonists off from the interior and the coast trade. One was located at Digby, in sight of the Cape, not twenty miles distant. The destruction of this was the first *voluntary* fight of the Liberians, and that from principle, for release of captive humanity. Afterwards followed a like course with the New Cesters factory, and then, that of Tradetown, *second in importance only to Gallinas*. The battle at the latter place was severe, well contested. The slavers and natives were protected by wood and sand breast works thrown up to prevent a landing. The surf was high and the landing difficult, but Ashmun flanked by Williams, Johnson and others, dashed through it, holding

their guns aloft, and after considerable loss, succeeded in driving, the mixed horde of Christians and barbarians into the town, some miles inland, where another battle took place, by which the town was captured; burned, and the slaves set free, some of which, had been taken from colonial territory. All these exploits transpired before my arrival; and even then the sea around was white with sails of slavers. When landing goods for the Bassa purchase, by the Margaret Mercer, in the summer of 1832, two tall slave brigs lay off the Cove, negotiating with King Joe Harris for supplies. On arriving at Tradetown the Margaret Mercer was covered by a long nine on a traversing carriage of a slave trader, forbidding us to take off rice from that place.

In the spring of 1832 the last of the slave catching kings, Peter Bromley, made unfriendly demonstrations, which forced a decision for clearing him out. His town might be considered as almost within the bounds of the Colony, not more than fifteen miles north of the St. Paul's on a line between Caldwell and Millsburg. It was well prepared for defense, entirely protected by a bullet proof, high stockade and in a situation considered safe from artillery. A six pounder and carriage, however, were taken to pieces and transported through all natural and prepared obstructions, and a few round shot speedily opened the back of the fortress, through which the defenders hurriedly departed. One colonist only, was killed, who, anxious to distinguish himself, before the discharge of the gun, mounted the barricade, losing his head thereby.

Subsequent to this, came the fight with king Joe Harris at Bassa Cove: where the Cape boys were called upon for service, saving a defenseless Colony from destruction; *defenseless*, for the Pennsylvania Colonization Society there founded a *Quaker* colony, without a Quaker in it. Sources of *offence*—many; of *defense*—none.

The next call for volunteers was upon Bassa, the Bassa boys ranking next to the Monrovia's for bravery. A missionary, Mr. Finley, was murdered while travelling^a along the beach, by people of a leeward tribe; a demand was made for the murderer; not granted. A force was at once raised and revenged the murder by burning their town, after a pretty hard fight.

The last record I will enter, of volunteering for a fight and where fortunately none came off, was in the dry season of 1856 and 1857. On arriving at Monrovia in the M. C. Stevens I was met with the startling news of the war at Cape Palmas between the colonists and natives, and that the former having been worsted in the last battle, were pent up on the Cape, and the Colony in danger of destruction. An appeal for aid had been made to the Government of Liberia, which I warmly seconded and offered to supply funds for that purpose. Our

joint petition was granted and call for volunteers made. Within twenty four hours, some one hundred and twenty followed the recruiting officer, being a surplus of twenty. Such a string of *sojers*, I never before witnessed : mostly boys, born and *raised* in the upper settlements; many shoeless and even hatless, merely shirted and breeched, decidedly *light* infantry. To a friend I expressed surprise that any good could be expected from such material. Fear not, said he, they'll fight like devils;—not otherwise, I felt sure. In another twenty-four hours all were on board, some one hundred and fifteen rank and file, well officered and equipped. The boy *sogers* were now in full Zouave dress, so well known to us in later times, but seeming to me then, to comport with my friend's designation of their character as fighters. They appeared fearfully lawless, even endangering the management of the ship : but they were soon brought to order by their officers ; and never did I witness so great a change as the two days' severe drilling on shipboard wrought in these wild b'hoys. On landing at Palmas their reputation as "Cape boys," their remarkable dress and martial bearing, most effectually did the business : no fighting followed, a grand palaver was called and peace established ; much I apprehend, to the disappointment of these young Dalgettys, who seemed anxious for a *little shindy*, at least.

I have thus endeavored to sketch from memory, the effective military service rendered by Liberians, not only as evidence of their bravery, but of the character and general policy of their government. It will be seen that they have been ready to shed their blood for humanity, for their brethren, although yet ranked as heathen ; to avenge the death of a foreigner on their coast, and for the relief of a neighboring colony having no political relations with their own ; all in proof, that they have within themselves the elements of a civil government of high grade ; and the sixty years of its regular uninterrupted progress gives reasonable hope of a long and prosperous future.

In this, "My first visit to Liberia," I opened with an extended personal narrative of my initiation into the service of the Colonization Society ; how it ended, I am no doubt anticipated by the reader. From the first, I was able to render very efficient service in care of some four hundred emigrants in process of acclimation, before I was struck down myself. Had my duties been confined to Monrovia after my temporary recovery, I should most likely have remained much longer in the work ; but Dr. Todsén, my senior, was forced to leave for recuperation, by which, not only double duty devolved upon me, but a daily pull of five miles through the sluggish Stockton creek to render services to emigrants located on the St. Paul's, soon broke me down entirely, and no course was left

me but to flee. As a last resort, I returned to the United States, still a cripple; relieved only of the sufferings and disability, inflicted by my professional treatment; but with a new order of invalidism, induced by *unadulterated malaria* of the African coast.

The important public events of my eighteen months sojourn, were the "King Bromley war," before referred to; the purchase of Grand Bassa; the establishment of the settlement of Edina, and the arrival of two English steamers, the "Quorra" and "Alburka," having on board Richard Lander, who solved that long, world-puzzling problem, the outlet of the Niger; on his way to the delta of that great river, in one of the outlets of which, he was murdered by natives, through the instigation of an agent of an English Trading Company or firm from pure jealousy of interference with their trade.

A NEW WORLD.

There is no movement in our day more interesting or significant than that which draws the eyes of the nations toward Africa. Annexation and colonization are rapidly giving permanent political relations to all parts of the land and to all its inhabitants. Great trading companies have taken their posts on every unoccupied coast, on nearly every available river course, and are planting their factories far inland, to reach and develop the unknown resources of this mighty territory. Scientific forces are equally active and energetic. Exploration is going forward most systematically and persistently from many points on the eastern, western and southern shores; national societies and private corporations are thus engaged in tracing out physical features and accurately locating peoples, cities and towns, and the Christian world is alert in founding missionary stations among almost every tribe of the wonderful Continent.

GOVERNMENTAL.

A curious feature of the times is the disposition of the chief powers of Europe to "annex" African territory. Great Britain and Germany seem anxious to compete with each other in unfurling "protection" flags on the shores of the "Dark Continent."

A decree announcing that the British government had assumed the protectorate over the country lying north of Cape Colony—bounded on the north by the parallel of latitude 22 deg. south, on the west by 20 deg. east longitude, and on the east by the border line of the Transvaal territory—marks a new era in the history of South Africa. A more important order is that "the British protectorate of

the Niger district comprises the territories on the line of coast between the British protectorate of Lagos and the right or western river bank of the mouth of the Rio del Rey. It further comprises the territories on both banks of the river Binue from the confluence up to and including Ibi." It will thus be seen that the whole of the Niger mouths are now under British protection, and that in the south the British possessions march with those of Germany. Ibi is about 230 miles up the Binue from its confluence with the Niger. The future seizure of the territory on the west coast by Great Britain and Germany is thus regulated by agreement;—"Great Britain engages not to make acquisitions of territory, accept protectorates or interfere with the extension of German influences in that part of the coast of the Gulf of Guinea, or in the interior districts to the east of the following line—that is, on the coast, the right bank of the Rio del Rey, entering the sea between 8 deg. 42 min. and 8 deg. 46 min. longitude east of Greenwich; in the interior a line following the right river bank of the Rio del Rey from the said mouth to its source, then striking direct to the left river bank of the Old Calabar or Cross river, and terminating after crossing that river at the point about 9 deg. 8 min. of longitude east of Greenwich, marked 'Rapids' on the English Admiralty chart. Germany engages not to make acquisitions, accept protectorates, or interfere with the extension of British influence in that part of the coast of the Gulf of Guinea lying between the right river bank of the mouth of the Rio del Rey, as above described, and the British colony of Lagos; nor in the interior to the west of the line traced in the preceding paragraph. Both powers agree to withdraw any protectorate already established within the limits thus assigned to the other, a reservation being specially made as to the settlement of Victoria, Amba Bay, which will continue to be British possessions. Germany engages to withdraw her protest against the hoisting of the British flag at Santa Lucia Bay, and to refrain from making acquisitions of territory, or establishing protectorates on the coast between the colony of Natal and Delagoa Bay."

Commenting on the decision of the British government to strengthen the fortifications at Sierra Leone, St. Helena, Table Bay and Simon's Bay, the leading journal at Freetown says: "Our colony has been selected as the most convenient station between England and the Cape of Good Hope into which her Majesty's ships-of-war and mercantile vessels may safely put for shelter and supplies in case of emergency. To adapt this port for this and other purposes the imperial government have proposed to spend the round sum of £52,000, of which £30,000 are to be devoted to works and £22,000 to arm-

mament. The safety and convenience of our harbor, together with other considerations, place Sierra Leone at an advantage over the other West African colonies, and it is but natural that the choice of the British Government should have fallen on this settlement." The British Government has ordered an increase in the consular staff in Western Africa, especially to stimulate trade on the Congo. Hon. Herr Gerhard Rohlfs, appointed consul-general of Germany, is the bearer of a letter, translated into Arabic, from the Emperor William to the Sultan of Zanzibar. The German flag has been raised on the river Dubreka, claimed by France. Coba is about twelve and Kabatai thirty square miles in extent, with a population of 30,000. Commissioner Herr Falkenthal has there entered on his duties, and the Governor of the Cameroons, Baron Von Soden, has arrived out in company with Chancellor Von Puttkamer.

The Sultan of Zanzibar has been notified that the regions to the west of his dominions have been placed under German protection, and a German consular judge appointed to exercise jurisdiction over them. Pangani, lying to the north of Usagaea, containing some 4,500 square miles, has also been transferred to the German empire. A steamer, constructed mostly of steel, to be at the service of the Governor of the Cameroons, has been launched at Kiel, receiving the appropriate name of *Nachtigal*. The German parliament has voted 187,500 francs for African explorations.

France continues her aggressive operations about the headwaters of the Niger, and she has seized Grand Popo and neighboring ports. The latter acquisition is sandwiched between the British settlements around Cape Coast and Whydah. Spain has a revival of her old colonial spirit, and has annexed the coast between Cape Bogador, a little to the south of Morocco and Cape Blauco, (20 deg. 21 min. N.,) both included, and in the Gulf of Guinea claims the coast line from the Muni river, which forms the northern boundary of the French possessions on the Gaboon, (0 deg. 43 min. N.,) to the Rio Campo, (2 deg. 41 min. north.) Portugal has organized her Congo possessions to remain under the authority of the Governor-General of Angola. Cabinda has been fixed upon as the seat of government for the new district and the residence of the Lieutenant-Governor. Italy has seized Massowah and dispatched expeditions to the Congo country and to another unoccupied portion of the "Dark Continent."

Why should not the powers of Europe, especially England, France and Germany, leave defenceless Africa alone, restricting themselves to legitimate commerce? All public law is set aside, all the conventional decencies of warfare, all idea of *meum* and *teum* are put out of sight. A government agent and vessel drop along the coast

and hoist up a flag in token that that particular town, whether part of Damaraland or Namaqualand, or the Cameroons, or the Gold Coast, has ceased to belong to the tribe which has inhabited it for centuries, and is transferred to a European power. In the scramble for African territory the points of collision between rival nations will naturally increase, and a conflagration that will sweep over Europe may be kindled from a stray spark struck in Africa.

THE BERLIN CONFERENCE.

There is every reason to hope that the results of the International Conference held at Berlin will prove all that the friends of Africa could reasonably expect. It would be impossible to enter fully into the several provisions of the *Acte Generale* passed by the Conference; it will suffice to give briefly their main import.

The principle of free commerce in its widest sense was established in the immense basin of the Congo—a maritime belt of 360 miles along the Atlantic, was placed on the same footing, and its future extension to the east coast made probable on a still vaster scale. In this wide territory no import duties will be levied for twenty years, nor will such dues ever be exacted in the possessions of the International Association, which constitute by far the largest part. Native and white men have similar rights guaranteed to them. All religions are tolerated, whilst the protection of the aborigines and the proscription of the slave trade are to be the fundamental principles of public law in the states and colonies of Central Africa.

It was further enacted that special measures are to be adopted, both by land and sea, against the slave trade, which continues to be the great scourge of Central Africa, and one of the principal obstacles to civilization.

It was provided that States constituted in the basin of the Congo, and Powers founding colonies there, will have the right of neutralizing their possessions, either perpetually or temporarily.

One of the dispositions adopted by the Conference tends to prevent European wars from extending to Africa, and in the event of disagreements arising in Africa itself between the powers of the basin of the Congo, recourse will be had to mediation if not arbitration.

The free navigation of the Congo and its affluents was proclaimed, comprising an extent of above 5,000 kiloms, (3,106 miles,) open to flags of all nations; and what applies to the river will, accordingly to a somewhat original idea, apply also to railway, canal or road supplying the place of any obstructed part of the river. The transit dues must only be such as will compensate the cost of works executed in the bed of the river or commercial establishments erected on its banks.

An international commission, to which each of the contracting powers has a right to appoint a delegate, is specially charged to see that all nations benefit equally from the freedom of navigation and transit. It will at the same time have to provide in concert with the riverine powers for the improvement or maintenance of the *regime fluviale*, the security of navigators, and the carrying out of necessary improvements.

All works and establishments are neutralized in time of war, and lastly, the act passed declares that the navigation of the Congo shall remain open in time of war for ships of all nations, both belligerent as well as neutral, and that private property will be respected, even though under an enemy's flag, on all the waters covered by the act.

These dispositions constitute a remarkable progress in international law, and confirm those principles adopted by Belgium, and to which she owes the emancipation of her principal river. They moreover embody the spirit of all the treaties concluded by the International African Association, and set forth the objects it has pursued.

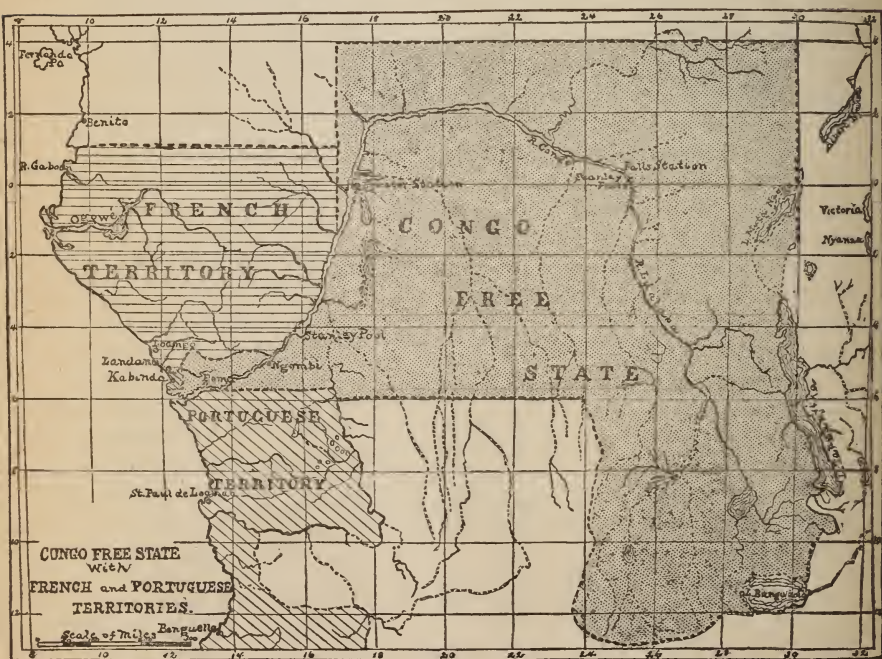
While the Conference were sitting at Berlin the International African Association concluded treaties with England, Denmark, Italy, Austria, Holland, Belgium, Russia, Spain and the United Kingdom of Sweden and Norway, whereby all these powers agreed to recognize its flag as that of a friendly State, the Association engaging on its side to accord to the subjects of these powers full rights.

A further important negotiation was concluded during the meeting of the Conference in reference to the territorial limits of the new Free State and those of the French and Portuguese possessions in the same region—much disputed matters which were not settled until after long and interrupted negotiation. A final arrangement was, however, happily arrived at, and a treaty was signed at Paris, and on the 17th of February an analogous one was concluded with Portugal.

By those treaties the question of the ancient claims of Portugal to the mouth of the Congo was definitely decided. Had it not been thus disposed of, serious complications might have arisen in the future, and the whole work of the Association been marred. Instead of this a definite agreement, sanctioned by all the powers, has been made, and a new region opened to the commerce and industry of the civilized world.

The frontiers of the three powers will be best studied on a map illustrating the Congo region, but it may be mentioned that, by the convention with Portugal, this power gets the south or left bank of the Congo, from its mouth to Nokki, a distance of ninety miles,

where there is a Portuguese and a French factory, the Association retaining the right bank, with twenty-three miles of coast, extending from Banana to a point south of Cabinda Bay. Here Portuguese territory again begins, so as to enclose the districts around Cabinda, Melembo, Saudana and Massabe, where the Association has long been established. This Portuguese *enclave*, as it is called, extends inland for thirty or forty miles, as far east as the Suendu, a tributary of the Chiloango. From Nokki the Portuguese frontier runs east to the Kwango, a tributary of the Congo, and there turns south. By the convention with France the Association yields to this power the whole of the valley of the Kwilu, called on its upper reaches the Niadi, where it was in possession of large tracts of country and had established eighteen stations. In exchange for this concession it retained the left bank of Stanley Pool, which France had claimed through an act of annexation of De Brazza's lieutenant, Malamine. Above Manayunga, and up the Congo to a point beyond the river Sikona, this river forms the boundary between African France and the Free State. Beyond this again the territory of the latter widens considerably, comprising a wide unexplored belt on either side of the river to lakes Tanganyika and Bangweolo.



THE CONGO FREE STATE.*

We are glad to give a sketch-map of the new Congo Free State, indicating also the French and Portuguese territories adjoining, according to the settlement recently made in connection with the Berlin Conference. This map has been prepared from a larger colored map given in the *Proceedings* of the English Royal Geographical Society. The French territory is designated by parallel lines, the Portuguese by diagonal lines, and the Free State by the area which is tinted. A small section on the coast north of the Congo, embracing a region thirty or forty miles inland, is also assigned to the Portuguese, but is not very clearly indicated on our map. It will be seen that the territory of the Free State extends south of the Congo river to a point below the rapids, thus giving it control of what must be the highway from the sea to the Upper Congo. The railroad around the Falls, from tide water to Stanley Pool, is to pass on the south bank of the river. The area of the Free State is about 1,300,000 square miles. The flag of the new State is a field of blue with a golden star in the centre. Long may this flag wave over a State truly free!

MR. STANLEY IN LIBERIA.

If our limits allowed, we should be glad to make copious extracts from Mr. Stanley's valuable book on the "Congo Free State," the perusal of which has suggested the following, which our experience has already indicated. First—That the most important impressions yet made upon the central or remote portions of the "Dark Continent" have been made by private enterprise. As illustrations of this we have the work of missionary societies; the effects produced by the establishment of Liberia by the American Colonization Society; and now the vast transforming taking place in the hitherto most neglected part of that country under the influence of the International African Association. Second—The next idea prominently held out is that the human agencies for effective reforming or meliorating work on Africa, especially among white men, are rare and difficult to find. Mr. Stanley's experience, even of some of the most promising of his European assistants has been discouraging. He thus refers to them, vol. I, p. 465:

"Experience has taught me already that to leave my principal base in the hands of flighty-headed young people who recognized no higher law than their own impulses and passions, was to prepare for

*Acknowledgment of obligations is gratefully made to the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions for the sketch—"map of the New Congo Free State," and to the *Missionary Herald*, of Boston; Foreign Missionary of New York, and *African Times*, of London, for facts and figures freely incorporated in this and preceding papers.

myself endless trouble and continual anxiety. I needed a solid, reliable gentleman of sufficient reputation and weight of judgment to inspire respect in his subordinates; one whose name would be a guarantee for stability of character, whose word would be as good as his bond, and whose past conduct might be taken as an indubitable proof that his future actions would be also highly creditable to him. Such persons—so new to the necessities of a hard practical life, that they at once confessed themselves crushed in the presence of every new exigency they encountered, or such, as soon as they were left alone to contend against trivial troubles of tropic life, had no other resource than to send a letter of resignation to their chief and incontinently throw up their command and run away to Europe—could not be trusted with so responsible command in so important an enterprise. These people had already given me more trouble than all the African tribes put together. They had inspired such distrust in me that I would rather be condemned to be a bootblack all my life than to be a dry nurse to beings who had no higher claim to manhood than that externally they might be pretty pictures of men.”

“Unfledged Europeans, fresh from their homes, brimful of intolerable conceit, and indifferent to aught else save what submits to their own prejudices, are not as a rule the best material to work with for the civilization of the African.”—Vol. 1, p. 57.

The subjoined confession, Mr. Stanley says, might be truthfully written by young men who returned home after finding themselves incompetent to cope with the life and work of Africa!

“When in Europe we were men who believed ourselves capable of heroic work and immense effort, could we but have the opportunity of proving our strength, our natural wit, our native valor, our acquired intelligence, and our fortitude under privations; but, alas! when we landed in Africa we discovered that most of us were without nerve, without wit or fortitude; that our strength and much of our native valor in which we had prided ourselves had vanished, and *that our acquired intelligence was valueless*, since we had never known the practical art of living away from the guardianship and sympathy of our parents, and when privations confronted us we completely collapsed.”—Vol. 2, p. 238.

In the labors of the American Colonization Society in Liberia there has been repeated experience of this nature, even among colored men who have left this country, having excited the highest expectations of their usefulness. Some have no doubt been earnest and conscientious, but owing to a lack of practical experience and too great confidence in their “acquired intelligence,” they have, when confronted with the new circumstances of Africa, “completely col-

lapsed." Mr. Stanley continues his description of such persons:

"Instead of meeting the usual convenience of civilization, which they seem to have taken for granted already existed, they found themselves confronted and repelled by the task of preparing these for later comers, and by the drudgery and toil it involved. They were quite prepared to enjoy the labor of the earliest pioneers, but they were extremely loth to undertake to do for their successors what they had inconsiderately assumed was already accomplished for themselves. In the presence of this astonishing revelation I began to hear words and phrases that sounded strangely to me. * * *

These were *amour propre*—self-love? 'susceptibilities'—vanity? * *

* Little by little we discovered that these magnificent men not only lacked the necessary attainments, but were also most poor in the spirit of endeavor."—Vol. 2, pp. 239—40,

Mr. Stanley's book should be carefully studied by all who contemplate laboring in Africa or co-operating on this side of the Atlantic with those who labor there, and a copy should be in the library of our colored educational institutions.

As was to be expected from men who find themselves confronted by what to them are insurmountable difficulties, not a few of Mr. Stanley's disappointed co-workers have not only left Africa, but have denounced and continue to denounce him as the cause of their troubles by having misrepresented the reality to them before they left their homes.

Referring to the recognition by the United States Government of the flag of the International African Association, in 1884, and to the efforts of Gen. Sanford in bringing about that result, Mr. Stanley, who has often visited Liberia, thus speaks of the young republic—vol. 2, p. 382:

"The American people had evidently forgotten that it was through the philanthropy of their fellow citizens that the free State of Liberia had been founded, to the establishment of which they had contributed \$2,558,987 of their money to create homes and comforts for the 18,000 free Africans they dispatched to settle there. This State, *which they might regard with honest pride* had now an area of 14,300 square miles and a revenue of \$100,000. * * * It was an act well worthy of the great Republic, not only as taking the lead in publicly recognizing and supporting the great work of African civilization in history, and in promoting the extension of commerce, but of significant import *in view of its interest for the future weal of the seven millions people of African descent within its borders.*"

EXPLORATIONS.

Mr. H. H. Johnston has returned to London from an examination of Mount Kilimanjaro. He started from Mombasa, and passed some time in Mantara's country, which he reports as remarkably fertile and well watered. After leaving Taveita he crossed the cultivated zone, which ended at an altitude of 5,500 feet, and entered a district with pleasant grassy knolls and many streams of running water, camping beside a lovely fern-choked brook at 6,500 feet high, the whole ascent being very gradual. The river Kilema, which takes its source near the base of Kimawanza, is at an altitude of nearly 10,000 feet. Here the thermometer descended every night to one or two degrees below freezing point. Proceeding higher up the mountain, over grassy, undulating hillocks, varied with patches of snow, at 12,000 feet, Mr. Johnson struck a stream flowing in a south-southwest direction, amid thick vegetation. Beyond 13,000 feet up the mountain he discovered that the water was warm, the temperature of the tricking mud being 91 degrees Fahr. Vegetables only grew in dwarfed patches, and the ground was covered with boulders, while at 13,700 feet he saw the last resident bird. A few hundred feet higher up the mountain was enveloped in fog; suddenly the clouds parted, and he looked upon a blaze of snow so blinding white under the brief flicker of sunlight that he could see but little detail. Pressing forward he at last, despite mountain sickness, reached the chain of snow, having attained to within 2,000 feet of the summit, which is estimated to be at an altitude of 18,000 feet. On the way downwards by another route Mr. Johnston again passed through miles of well watered, fruitful country, "singularly English in appearance," which was, however, entirely uninhabited except by buffaloes and elephants. The average elevation of this district was between 7,000 and 8,000 feet, the temperature ranging from 43 degrees at night to 75 degrees at midday.

Mr. H. E. O'Neill, British consul at Mozambique, thus summarizes, in an address at Edinburgh, his discoveries: "The chief results have been to open up three new routes between the Nyassa district and the east coast: 1. Between Mozambique and Lake Shirwa and Blantyre; 2, from Blantyre to the Portuguese settlements of Angoche and Parapato; 3, from Quillimane to Blantyre. The Nyassa may now be reached by the longest route in thirty days, and by that from Quillimane to Blantyre in fourteen. The country passed over is well populated, food abundant and the people peaceable, helpful and industrious. There are difficulties, of course—African travel is never without them—but any or all of the three routes laid down may be constantly traversed and become most valuable channels for the de-

velopment of the trade and agriculture of the country." Mr. O'Neill claims to have been fortunate enough to discover three minor lakes—one, lake Lidedi, just south of the Rovuma, and close to lake Nagardi, of which Livingstone first heard as he passed north of that river upon his last travels. The others are lakes Amaramba and Chenta, which have their outlet in the river Lujenda. "When in the neighborhood of these lakes I closely investigated the question of the supposed connection of lake Shirwa with the Lujenda drainage system, and satisfied myself that there was no point of junction between them. Lake Shirwa is divided from the Lakes Chenta and Amaramba by a broad, elevated ridge of sandy soil, lightly wooded and covered with thick undergrowth, and I have nowhere detected traces of inundation or evidence of the rising of lake Shirwa above the level of its foot. It is possible that a subterranean junction exists, and this view is held by many natives."

Rev. George Grenfell reports an examination made by him of the Mobangi river, which enters the Congo a little southwest of the point where the great river crosses the equator. The Mobangi comes from a region which is now a blank on our African maps. He ascended the river over three hundred miles, finding it a magnificent stream, full of islands, and its banks more densely populated than any section of the Congo of equal extent. Mr. Grenfell is to undertake a further exploration to determine the question whether the Welli belongs to the river system of the Chad or of the Congo.

Lieut. Giraud has given an account at Paris of his attempt to cross the Continent, having explored Uemba, between the four great lakes, Nyassa, Tanganyika, Bangeweolo and Moero. This district, he declares, is the most powerful, if not the richest, he traversed. Reaching the Luapala, he arrived at the capital of Mere Mere. Here he was deserted by his porters, and the obstacles in the way of carrying out his plan compelled him to return, which he did via Nyassa and the Shire and Quillimane, reaching Zanzibar just two years from the day on which he started. It may be added to the foregoing that Major Serpa Pinto's expedition to the interior has failed, he having arrived at Mozambique after a sad experience of fever. He proposes, however, to make a fresh start in the hope of reaching the region which Lieut. Giraud visited.

Lieut. Weissman, who entered at St. Paul de Loando twenty months ago, has arrived at Stanley Pool, having traversed a large extent of territory. He represents the rivers Lulna, Sankaru, Kassaia and Lubilash, instead of flowing north, all turn westward and unite in one stream, which bears several names, but which it is safe to term the Kassai. This stream absorbs the Kwango, and still tending west,

receives the waters flowing from lake Leopold, and then empties itself at Kivamouth. The country is beautiful and the people friendly.

Capt. Capello and Commander Ivens, who left Mossamedes in March, 1884, at the expense of the Portuguese government and the Lisbon Geographical Society, arrived at the Cape of Good Hope in August. Having explored the affluents of the Zambezi, they entered Gananganja, in the heart of the Continent. The country, they say, is prolific in minerals. They then went to the Zambezi river, having traveled a distance of 4,200 miles in about sixteen months. The inhabitants of that hitherto unknown part are described by Capt. Capello as warlike, but his party met with no serious opposition. In some cases they were treated with marked kindness. The two explorers started again for Mossamedes with the intention of returning to Europe by way of the Congo.

Dr. Aurel Schulz has returned to Berlin from a journey made from Natal to the interior, including an examination of the Victoria Falls. He says the whole river Zambezi rushes over a cleft in the rocks four hundred and fifty feet high, but owing to the cloud of vapor always rising from the bottom, it was impossible to get a clear view of the falls. A short distance below a splendid sight was obtained of the " Devil's Kettle," another fall quite equal in beauty, if not in size, to the other. Near here the doctor engaged a Dutch hunter to guide him to Matambanje, and he then struck across the country to Linyanti. It was with the utmost difficulty our explorer reached Matambanje, which he represents as six hundred miles from the Atlantic seaboard.

Intelligence has been received of the movements making on the Congo by the employers Junckee and Casati, and that the Portuguese commercial expedition to Manica, under Capt. Paiva Andraide, is making satisfactory progress.

It should be remembered that Liberia has produced more explorers of Africa, educated on the spot, than any European colony on the coast. James L. Sims spoke the Vey language. Benjamin Anderson, who has twice performed the journey to Musardu, wrote a book which was so appreciated by Sir Roderick Murchison, president of the Royal Geographical Society at the time of its publication, that he gave it a place in the library by the side of the works of Park, Denham and Clapperton. Rev. Dr. Edward W. Blyden, the only Negro ever entrusted by the British government at Sierra Leone to explore the interior and make treaties with powerful chiefs, was sent to Liberia under the auspices of the American Colonization Society.

This is the programme of the next expedition to leave England

at the expense of the Royal Geographical Society, commanded by J. T. Last, who, as a lay agent of the Church Missionary Society, has done admirable work in the Zanzibar interior. Mr. Last, after making up his caravan at Zanzibar, will proceed south to Lindi, to the north of the mouth of the Rovume and Lugende rivers, and fix the longitude of the junction—an important geographical point not yet settled. He will then go on in a generally southwestern direction, and before reaching the north end of lake Shirwa turn southwards and make for the Namulli Hills, which, with other features in this region, were discovered by Consul O'Neill, in 1883. Here Mr. Last will establish himself and make a detailed study of the whole region in all its aspects, including a complete survey of the surrounding country, its topography, people, botany, economic products, climate and languages. When this is completed Mr. Last will enter the valley of the Likuga river, which rises in the neighborhood of these hills, and follow it down to the coast of Quizungu, whence he will travel south to Quillimane or north to Angoche, and thence to Mozambique.

Mr. Joseph Thompson has returned to London, having accomplished the mission with which he was entrusted by the African Trading Company. He is stated to have made treaties with the Sultans of Gando and Sokotu which give the company commercial command of the Niger almost to Timbuctoo, and of the Binue, its principal tributary, to the limits of navigation. The Academy of Sciences of Berlin have intrusted Dr. Schweinfurth with a mission to Central Africa. Dr. Herr W. Flegel is to ascend the Niger to the Binue, when he will proceed up the latter and then southward, in the interests of German commerce. Dr. Oscar Lenz is preparing to explore the watershed between the Nile and the Congo. Two expeditions are reported to be bound for Umzilla's Kraal. The first is a special commission despatched by the Portuguese government, which landed at Chihian, went across to Sofaia, and so inland. Its object is not clearly defined. The other expedition, led by a Major of the Portuguese artillery, is connected with the "Ophir Company," which was incorporated at Lisbon last year. Its object is to obtain permission to open anew the celebrated ancient mines of Manika.

Capt. Cecchi has been dispatched by the Italian government to Africa for the purposes of exploration. He is the author of a grammar and dictionary of the languages spoken by the Galla, Kaffa, Somali and Afar tribes, soon to be published by the Italian Geographical Society. Lieut. Massari has begun the scientific exploration of the Quango, from Konamouth to its junction with the Congo.

RAILROADS.

The project of making a railway from the Congo estuary to Stan-

ley Pool is attracting the attention of financiers and others. The government at Cape Colony is enlarging its political and commercial influence northward by interior railroad routes. Four hundred thousand pounds have been appropriated by the British government for constructing a railway from Cape Town to Kimberley.

CABLES.

It is announced that the British government has guaranteed a subsidy to a contractor who is preparing to lay a cable between St. Vincent and the chief places on the west and south coasts of Africa to Cape Town. The steamship *Silverthorn* sailed October 10 with the first portion of a cable which the India Rubber, Gutta Percha and Telegraph Works Company (limited) have contracted with the Portuguese government to lay along the west coast of Africa, touching chiefly at Portuguese settlements. Upon the arrival of the *Silverthorn* at St. Thiago the cable is to be connected with the existing line from Lisbon, touching at St. Vincent, from which latter place telegraphic communication is already established with St. Thiago. An alternative line has already been laid from Cadiz through the Canary Isles to St. Louis, on the west coast of Africa, and from the latter place a cable will be laid to Bathurst, 223 miles further south, where it will be joined by the cable now to be laid from St. Thiago. The new cable now connected at Bathurst with Europe by two different lines will then be laid for a distance of 573 miles to Sierra Leone while subsidiary cables will be laid along the coast, touching at Bissao, Bullama, Rio Nunez and Sierra Leone, thus again giving duplicate communications with Europe. From Sierra Leone the main cable will be laid to Accra, a distance of 1,186 miles. It is intended to continue the cable from Accra to the Cameroons, and through St. Thomas to St. Paul de Loando, south of the Congo, with which place communication will also be established. This finishes the immediate work in hand, but a further contract has already been entered into to prolong the cable from St. Paul de Loando to the Cape of Good Hope, and this additional cable is now in process of manufacture. The latter line will touch at Nova, Redona, Benguela, Mossamedes, Wal-fish Bay, Port Nolieth and Cape Town. On the completion of the work the cables will be handed over to the West African Telegraph Company, who will carry out the undertaking.

GOLD AND DIAMONDS.

Gold mining in West Africa has not succeeded. The gold is there, but lack of capital and transportation have contributed to the ill-fortune that has attended these enterprises, and even the best have had to contend with difficulties of climate and labor. There seems

no end to the new discoveries of gold in South Africa. Information from the Transvaal is to the effect that a paying reef, yielding one and one-half ounces to the ton, has been found in Matabeleland, and that a concession to work it has been granted by Lobengolo, chief of the Matabele natives, to a company which has started working with small plants of steam crushing machinery, through the use of which twelve bars of solid gold weighing one pound apiece have been secured from the first trial crushing. Rejoicings have taken place at Pretoria and Appolonia owing to a display of gold discovered close to those places. Persevering men with good health, and who have capital, crushing machinery and a supply of provisions for six months, stand a fair chance of becoming wealthy in time.

South Africa enjoys a virtual monopoly of the diamond market of the world. A diamond has recently been found there weighing 475 carats, said to be greatly superior in color and brilliancy to all the other famous diamonds known. Another large diamond from the De Beer mine weighs 128 carats in its rough state, and is of perfect octahedron shape. It is about an inch through in its longest and deepest parts, and in its present state is valued at about fifteen thousand pounds, but when cut the price will be very much more. It is considered one of the most famous gems of the world, and is called "The President." A letter from Kimberley represents that no less than \$5,000,000 is annually paid in that town alone in wages for diamond digging. And from this oasis in the agricultural desert has been sent in the last fifteen years something like \$200,000,000 worth of diamonds in the rough, which, with the cost of cutting, setting and selling, must have taken from the pockets of consumers a sum not far short of \$500,000,000.

TRADE.

Though the commerce of Africa, in common with every branch of trade all over the world, is passing through a period of almost unparalleled depression, there are not wanting indications that a revival of traffic is near at hand. The prospectus of the British Congo Company (limited) is published at Manchester with a capital of £500,000, divided into shares of £5 each. Last year the imports into the Congo district are stated to have amounted to £888,000, and the exports to some £2,000,000, so that in round numbers the trade may be roughly estimated at nearly £3,000,000 annually. The West African Trading Company (limited) has been formed with a capital of £250,000, in 25,000 shares of £10 each. The National African Company declared June 30 a dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum. The Cameroons Agricultural and Plantation Company, and the East African

Company are organizations of mercantile, manufacturing and banking firms at Hamburg for the development of Africa. The German Colonial Society of Berlin has announced its intention of forthwith founding stations on the upper Binue, and a preliminary sum of £7,500 has been appropriated for the undertaking.

The steam shipping interest at the present time is in a depressed state. The African Steamship Company, at the late meeting of the directors, declared that not only were they unprepared to pay a dividend, but they were unable to write off any depreciation. The Germans have established a monthly line of steamers between Hamburg and the West African coast. Under arrangements with the Portuguese government and the International Association, the council of the Castle Mail Packets Company (limited) have a direct mail service between Europe, the Congo and the Portuguese possessions in Africa. Southampton will be the port of departure and arrival in England, and the steamers will proceed from the Congo to St. Paul de Leando and Mossamedes, and thence to Algoa Bay, Natal and Delagoa Bay.

English enterprise will soon supply a want long felt in West Africa, viz., an investing and commercial bank, a company is formed with a capital of £1,000,000 sterling. The head office will be in Liverpool, with branches at Lagos, Sierra Leone and Cape Coast.

Lieut. Albert G. S. Hawes has been appointed British consul in the territories of the kings and chiefs of the districts adjacent to lake Nyassa. The newly appointed German Imperial Commissioner for Angra Pequena, Justice Goring, is to journey via Cape Town to Angra Pequena, in order to visit the interior of that possession, being accompanied by Referendary Nels and an under officer of the Guards Regiment at Berlin. Herr Schmidt has left Berlin for the Cameroons, there to act as German consul.

The British exports to West Africa are thus given: Total exports for ten years, 1853-62—British possessions, £3,731,888; foreign and native territory, £10,158,665; total, £13,890,553. Ten years, 1863-1872—British possessions, £6,371,905; foreign and native territory, £10,110,568; total, £16,482,473. Ten years, 1873-82—British possessions, £8,557,883; foreign and native territory, £12,917,220; total, £21,475,103. Total exports to British West African possessions for 1883—Gold Coast and Lagos, £510,213; Gambia and Sierra Leone, £415,801; total, £926,014. This is made up as follows: cotton goods, £560,451; other British goods, £295,035. Tobacco, spirits and other foreign goods exported is very nearly double as much as all other articles put together.

Too long the vast material advantages to be derived by this country from a proper cultivation of the opportunities offered in Af-

rica for commerce and colonization have been neglected. The wealth of the Continent is as extensive and varied as it is undeveloped, while the fact that these latent riches lie within a comparative short distance of our own shores should have the effect of exciting a far greater amount of attention in the minds of capitalists in the United States than has hitherto been the case. The vast commercial resources of the region south of the Upper Niger are accumulated in large towns not far beyond the eastern boundary of Liberia, from which they are diverted to Sierra Leone and elsewhere to the north. It would be a comparatively easy matter to bring this traffic to its natural channel. If American capital could be introduced into Liberia, which the Liberians prefer, the traffic at the populous towns, Medina, Musardu and Boporo, would readily increase till the laborious and expensive journey to Sierra Leone would be exchanged by the Mandinga traders for the easy and cheap one to Liberia.

The Government of the United States has dispatched expeditions to the Arctic regions, the Dead Sea, Japan and South America for scientific and commercial purposes. Why not send a party to explore West Africa, from Monrovia to the Niger, to secure its productive resources? A naval officer of high rank, and who has won distinction by his successful efforts to extend American commerce, has volunteered his valuable services to lead in so important a survey. An appropriation by Congress of \$25,000, to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of the Navy, should be made in this behalf. The people of the United States can claim Liberia alone as their part of Africa.

THE SOUDAN.

The capture of Khartoum and massacre of the heroic and no less heroic Christian General Gordon, the death of El Mahdi and the evacuation of Soudan by the British troops under Sir Garnet Wolseley, have followed each other in rapid succession. The literal meaning of the word Mahdi is *he who is led*. It is an epithet which may be applied to any prophet, or even to any ordinary person, but used as a proper name it signifies one who is beyond all others, "well guided," Heaven directed, sent of God to be a leader of His people. According to the Mohammedan idea, the true Mahdi will outrank all other prophets and divine messengers that have appeared. He will come to earth to accomplish the last things, to convert Christians and idolators to Islamism and lead the faithful in triumph at the judgment day. Mohammed Ahmed was undoubtedly a man of force of character, and probably a believer in his own appointed mission. His proclamations and other writings that fell into the hands of his ene-

mies showed him to be a man of intelligence and shrewdness. He evidently knew how to gain an ascendancy over the minds of the ignorant and fanatical, and how to hold it. His death will doubtless end the revolt in the Soudan for the present, or until another Mahdi shall appear.

ENSLAVEMENTS.

Rev. David D. Day, Superintendent of Lutheran Missions in West Africa, writes. "The vilest liquors imaginable are being poured into Africa in shiploads from almost every quarter of the civilized world. On one small vessel, in which myself and wife were the only passengers, there were in the hold over 100,000 gallons of *New England rum*, which sold on this coast for one dollar a gallon in exchange for palm oil, rubber, camwood and other produce common to the country. I have seen landed from one steamer at a single port 10,000 cases of gin, each containing twelve three-pint bottles, and this was but a drop in the mighty inflowing tide. At another time 7,000 cases were landed on a Sabbath morning. Almost every ship comes loaded with vast quantities of intoxicants, so that the devastating flood now rolling interiorward is something awful to contemplate. All along the coast are scattered trading stations, the bulk of their business being liquor. From three to four thousand cases of gin and fifteen hundred demijohns of rum is an average monthly sale for a store of any pretensions."

Herr Bublitz contributes to the *Reichsanzeiger* an article entitled "Bilder aus Kamerun," wherein he says that immense quantities of spirits, in great part of the worst, and indeed of a poisonous quality, are introduced into the Cameroons. The pernicious effect of these liquors on the population is manifest, more so physically. Rev. A. Mabile says: "Brandy is being literally poured into South Africa. Surely the British government cannot know what is going on and the ruin that is staring us in the face, or something would be done to help us. Oh, cannot England save these poor people from these unprincipled men, who are doing their utmost to destroy the good which the Gospel has done to the Basutos? All the chiefs have become drunkards, with one or two exceptions. How and where will it all end?"

What an unmitigated disgrace to Christian lands that, in addition to all the misery they have brought upon Africa in past generations by aiding the slave trade, they should now help to still further destroy her people by making them slaves of appetite!

The volume recently issued by the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, containing the proceedings of the Society at its two ju-

bible meetings brings freshly to view the fact that the slave trade in Africa has by no means been suppressed. It is an occasion for gratitude that so many able and prominent Englishmen of all shades of political and religious opinion, should have met together to reaffirm their hostility to the nefarious traffic, and their purpose to oppose it in all practicable ways. A telegram from Zanzibar states that 2,000 rescued slaves have just been handed by the British authorities to the Church missionary at Frere Town. Arab dhows are continually crossing the Red sea, laden with slaves. Mr. Stanley reports that on his recent tour along the upper Congo he discovered a camp of 2,300 slaves, principally women and children, and that this supply had been secured by the burning of 118 villages and the devastation of 43 districts. The Rev. Chauncey Maples declares that during a residence of six years he has never taken a journey of seventy miles from Masasi without coming across a caravan of slaves. One of these caravans numbered 2,000.

EUROPEAN MISSIONS.

Missionary stations of American and European societies very nearly encompass Africa from Sierra Leone to Liberia, Gaboon, Benguela, and Cape Town, and thence to Natal, Zanzibar, Mombas, Abyssinia and Egypt. The videttes of this grand, united army have reached the African lake region, the banks of the Zambezi and the Niger and the basin of the Congo. The missions of the Wesleyan Missionary Society on the west coast are reported to be in a flourishing condition, and there is a general desire to extend the work into the interior. The Gambia station has long had stations as far up the Gambia river as McCarthy's Island, 250 miles, but the lack of native preachers has been a hindrance to further advance. At Sierra Leone there is the same difficulty, but on the Gold Coast and at Lagos "we have taken hold of heathenism," writes the Rev. John Milurn, "with a mighty grip. Here we have a native ministry that any Church might be proud of—earnest, pious, patriotic, loyal Methodist preachers—willing to go where they are sent by the Church, and to make a sacrifice if need be." The last report of the Gold Coast, Yoruba and Popo districts give 59 chapels, 268 other preaching places, 24 missionaries, English and native, 287 local preachers, 6,716 church members, while there are 20,075 attendants at public worship.

The Episcopal Bishop of Sierra Leone observes, in a sketch of progress in his jurisdiction, that the Church is now almost self-supporting. There are thirteen parishes in charge of native pastors. From £2,000 to £3,000 are annually raised for evangelical purposes. There is a college for training native clergy, and a grammar school at

Freetown, as well as a female educational institute. Lagos, the furthest section of the commission is 1,000 miles from Sierra Leone. When the Church Missionary Society went there, twenty-five years ago, Lagos was a principal slave market. Its district now contains seven churches, three of them in charge of native pastors.

The Baptist mission at the Cameroons has been seriously interfered with as the result of the annexation of this region by Germany. It seems that King Bell, chief of Bell Town, ceded not only his own territory, but that of another chief, Joss. The latter refused to regard the transaction as valid. A petty warfare followed between these native chiefs and their adherents, when two German men-of-war arrived at the mouth of the river and forcibly interfered in the conflict. In the bombardment Bell Town and Hickory Town were burned, including the mission premises. Along the river for many miles there is not a single house standing. The people having been proclaimed rebels, it is not probable that they will settle there again, and this prosperous mission, founded nearly forty years ago by the famous missionary, Rev. Alfred Saker, has received a stunning, if not a fatal blow.

A valedictory service in connection with the departure of six missionaries, under the auspices of the Baptist Missionary Society for work on the Congo, was held August 17, in Camden Road Chapel, London. Mr. W. C. Parkinson, who presided, said that it was impossible for any one to adequately describe the possibilities and extent of the work to which they had now set their hands. It was opening out day by day. The Livingstonian mission of the Scotch Free Church, on lake Nyassa, is having continued prosperity. In one of the schools over one hundred scholars are gathered; a dozen are reading in the first reader, and a class of eight boys is reading in John's Gospel. The language is the Chinyanja. In a school taught by a native teacher thirty-eight were present. On one Sunday it was estimated that eight hundred were present at worship. The Universities mission has thirty-five native evangelists, formerly slaves. The released slaves had printed at their printing office the whole of the New Testament and a larger part of the Old, in the Swahili language, understood through the interior.

Bishop Hannington, with Messrs. Hanford and Wray, of the Church Missionary Society, with the view of opening a mission, have recently visited the country called the "Switzerland of Africa," the chief feature of which is the lofty Mount Kilimanjaro, rising some 18,000 feet above the level of the sea, and covered with perpetual snow, though only three degrees south of the equator. This region lies about two hundred and fifty miles northwest from Mombasa, and

through it runs the natural road to the Victoria Nyanza. Travellers unite in describing the scene as marvelously lovely, uniting the luxuriance of the tropics with the grandeur of Switzerland. The beautiful vale of Taveta is spoken of as a "very Arcadian bower of bliss." Lying some 2,400 feet above the sea, seven miles in length by one in breadth, irrigated with cool waters from the melting snows on the mountains, richly cultivated, surrounded by gigantic forest trees, rising eighty to one hundred feet before branching into a luxurious canopy, with a profusion of ferns and flowering shrubs of every hue in the intervals, this valley is a very "forest haven of refuge." It is entered through a narrow defile, across which are thrown thick barriers of wood, forming an impenetrable defense, zealously guarded, with a single opening for a gate. The inhabitants form a Republic, are of mixed origin, are diligent agriculturists, raising in their fertile and carefully irrigated soil banana groves, sugar cane, sweet potatoes, yams, and every variety of tropical vegetables, while also they are great bee-masters, with fat flocks of sheep and goats. They are described as "honest, industrious, hospitable, manly, and courteous, though grossly superstitious. West of Taveta are the highlands of Chagga, comprising the whole habitable region along the south and southeast slope of Kilimanjaro. Not a month passes without rain, and the fertile country shows everywhere the signs of most luxuriant cultivation, as rich as that of Taveta, with the advantage of a delightful interchange of mountain, forest and plain. The principal chief in this locality is a pleasing specimen of African royalty, powerfully built, of princely bearing, with a pleasant, intellectual face, and affable and courteous in his intercourse with travellers.

On Sunday, April 5, forty additional Roman Catholic missionaries for Africa received their dismissal in the cathedral of Algiers. They were under the leadership of Mgr. Lirinhac, Bishop of Pacendo, Vicar Apostolic of the Victoria Nyanza, and Mgr. Carbonier, Vicar Apostolic of lake Tanganyika. These missionaries are intended for the four Apostolic vicariates into which Equatorial Africa has lately been divided by the Roman pontiff. The party consists of lay brothers and ordained fathers. The latter have been trained in the seminary at Algiers. They belong to a special religious order, with a peculiar semi-oriental dress, of which the native red cap is a conspicuous feature.

Steamers are running in the waters of Africa on the errands of the Gospel. The Henry Wright is in use at Zanzibar and Mombas; the Illala is navigating the Nyanza; the Eleanor is engaged on the Victoria Nyanza; the Good News is raising steam

on the Tanganyika, and the Henry Reed and Peace have made their first trip on the Congo, above Stanley Falls. The Charles Jansen is under construction for the Nyanza, and the Henry Venn has been completed at a cost of \$30,000 for voyaging on the Niger. She is intended to replace one of that name irreparably damaged after rendering valuable service.

There seems to be no longer doubt of the deaths of the monarchs Mtese, of Mirambo, and of Umzila. Mr. Stanley has characterized Mtese as the most remarkable man in all Central Africa, and this is saying more than at first appears, as there are and have been several who might claim great honor. Mirambo, whose realm is south of the Victoria Nyanza, would be a statesman if he had proper "environments."

AMERICAN MISSIONS.

The African mission of the Protestant Episcopal Church is nearly half a century old, and has a total of 425 communicants. Eighty-six missionaries from the United States have labored in it, of whom twenty-eight died in the field, and it has had, including the present incumbent, four Bishops. The new Bishop is a product of the mission. The mission is divided into three districts—Cape Palmas, which gives name to the diocese; Sinou and Bassa, and Monrovia and Cape Mount. Of the 425 communicants 247 are classed as Liberians, 177 as native and 1 as American. Three stations in the Cape Palmas district, two of which are purely native, contain 221 communicants, of whom more than half are Greboes. The Lutheran mission, on the St. Paul's river, Rev. David A. Day, superintendent, is making gratifying progress. Rev. D. Davidson, native, was ordained and has become pastor of the first self-sustaining church at Muhlenburg. This is an industrial mission, coffee planting having become helpful toward support. Missionaries of the Baptist Foreign Mission Convention, (colored,) have established a station at Cape Mount, Liberia, among the Veys. They find the youth quick and intelligent, and report surprising progress in conversions.

Although the restrictions imposed by the French Government at the Gaboon and on the Ogove have filled the path of the missionaries of the Presbyterian Board with hindrances, there have been scenes of hopeful labor, and visible fruits have arisen. The French authorities at the Gaboon, bent on Gallicanizing their colony, have insisted on having all schools conducted in the French language. This requisition, if it cannot be changed, may put an end to the schools. It is hoped that France will at least permit the preaching of the Gospel to the natives of French Africa in the vernacular and the maintenance of the vernacular schools.

The American Board mission at Bihe is suffering suspension for a time through the influence of Portuguese traders. It is believed that the interruption is but temporary. The result of the fifty years' labor of the Board among the Zulus is thus given: The fifteen native churches report a membership of 782, with a gain this year of 118, or 16 per cent., and their annual contributions to all purposes amount to \$3,694. The native agency consists of 52 preachers, two of them pastors; 42 teachers and 43 other help, who, with the missionary force at 59 different preaching places, are presenting the Gospel to a population of 75,000. The work of higher education is carried on in a theological school with 15 pupils, a boys' boarding school with 46 pupils, and two girls' boarding schools with 88 pupils, while 41 common schools give instruction to 1,700 pupils. The mission located on Inhambane Bay, though one of the youngest missions of the Board, shows itself not least in enterprise or industry. Three extended journeys of exploration, besides several shorter excursions, are reported this year, and valuable results have been secured. Large populations in fertile territory, accessible to missionary labor, have been found between the Limpopo river and the coast. The three families of the mission have their several places of residence amid friendly people not far from each other, and from these three centres they are now ready to acquire the language and begin systematically the evangelical work which they hope in time to carry from the sea to the heart of the Continent.

Bishop William Taylor, who is at the head of a missionary colony of over fifty persons, preachers, physicians, mechanics and farmers, with their wives and thirteen children, presided at the Liberia Annual Conference at Monrovia in January. The Bishop writes from Nhangepepe, June 19: "I and a half dozen of our men are out here, about 300 miles from Loanda, preparing the way for the settlement of our families. We have surveyed a mission farm of over 2,000 acres of splendid land, in which we can grow anything tropical or temperate. The people receive us gladly. This is a place that we must occupy; fine country, 2,300 feet elevation and large population. This is our first inland station."

SAMUDU.

A Mandingo chief, Alimami Samudu, alias Ibrahima Sanankodu, of Beri, some 1,000 miles in the interior of Liberia, is reported to have an army of 100,000 men, subduing the country between Timbuctoo and the coast, and opening it to commerce. He is represented to be about 40 years of age. Messengers sent by him have reached Sierra Leone. Rev. Dr. Edward W. Blyden, than whom there is no

better authority on West Africa, and the extent and influence of Mohammedanism in that country, gives the following interesting account of this movement:

“The Governor and inhabitants of Sierra Leone have been recently very much impressed by the physical and mental character of the hundred representatives who came to the government from the troops of Samudu, the Mandingo warrior from the Koniah country, interior of Liberia, who is driving the French before him in the neighborhood of the Niger. They could all read, and had the frame of giants, and their heads the intellect of statesmen. These people neither in themselves nor in their ancestry, have ever been affected by liquor. They are sober, strong, self-reliant. Nor have they been weakened by that other vice, which, in this nineteenth century, has caused an outcry in highly enlightened London. The young men retain their physical integrity and purity until they take their wife or wives. Mohammedan law recognizes four lawful wives. Every woman has her husband and every girl is betrothed. The people are compelled to be pure. Polygamy in the interior of Africa, where it is an institution transmitted and regulated by the customs and laws of generations, is a different thing from polygamy in civilized communities. Among the aborigines it resembles the ancient patriarchal life in civilized or European communities or colonies it would resemble pandemonium.

“I had the opportunity of conversing with persons belonging to the army of Samudu. They were all from the neighborhood of Medina and Musardu. They gave me the following information: The main road from the interior—from the gold regions of Boure and the cattle districts—had its chief outlets, until within the last eighty years, at Wah Koro (Cape Mount) and Durn Koro (Cape Mesurado.) But the growth of Sierra Leone and intermediate wars diverted the trade to that peninsula. The old road is much shorter and far more convenient from Medina and Musardu to Monrovia, Grand Bassa, Sinou and Cape Palmas than it is to Sierra Leone. And the object of Samudu is to re-open those roads. Already the wars which diverted the trade of Medina and Musardu from the Liberian coast to Sierra Leone and Gambia have been suppressed, and all that remains to be done is that Liberia should take advantage of these openings to enlarge her intercourse with the interior. Other things being equal, geographical convenience will determine the direction of trade.

“And the opportunity is offering itself for emigrants to push out to those healthy and wealthy regions, where cattle and horses abound. Here is also a promising field for distinctive labor. They will be sure

of the hearty support and co-operation of those intelligent tribes, who understand the advantage of a neutral, industrial and religious element settling in their country, as a means of preserving peace and aiding in keeping the roads open. Liberia has already entered upon relations with those people; first, through Mr. Benjamin Anderson, the explorer of Musardu, and more recently the late President Gardner conducted negotiations with Ibrahima Sissi, King of Medina, whose place is now taken by Samudu."

COLONIZATION.

The Congo is the country to which some Americans would direct the people of color to emigrate from the United States. We have always felt about the efforts of Europeans to settle the Congo State that their undertaking would not prove an exception to the rule, viz., that Europeans cannot colonize Equatorial Africa., The policy of the American Colonization Society will always remain the true and only policy for the civilization and regeneration of the "Dark Continent." Every day's experience is proving this. Liberia is not only the most fertile, salubrious and beautiful section of West Africa, but it has convenient access to the wealthiest districts of the Niger valley. It is not difficult for a man of the least energy to make a comfortable living.

Africa, south of Liberia, may be considered inaccessible to Americans. It does not seem possible for them to get a foothold in the Cameroons, where the Germans control the trade, or in Fernando Po, subject to Spanish rule, or in the Niger country, Dahomey, the Gold Coast and Ashantee, all under English influence. Liberia furnishes the most promising field for American enterprise, both commercial and agricultural.

A recent writer on "Some of the difficulties in the way of extending trade in Africa," complains of the absence of labor for mechanical, agricultural or trading purposes. Now the Colonization Society furnishes Africa with labor for all these departments. There is no other part of the Continent where so many mechanics and practical farmers are to be found as in that Republic. Multiply the characteristics of Liberia and the civilization of Africa is secured. Bishop Gilbert Haven said: "Let Liberia fill up her land with farmers, and she will conquer Africa." Only the United States possesses the agents for making these farms, and only the Colonization Society is able to assist any of these agents to remove to Africa. The Colonization Society ought to be much encouraged, for God is showing to the world that its methods and plans for Africa's civilization and Christianization are the most practicable and effectual methods.

The movement among the descendants of Africa in this country for emigration to the fatherland is causing great interest all along the coast in and out of Liberia, and an earnest desire prevails to welcome the returning exiles. There are vast and fruitful districts in the Republic awaiting to afford them comfortable and prosperous homes.

To the regeneration of Africa we are definitely pledged by our work in Liberia, by our share in the founding of the Congo Free State and by our leading place among the nations of the earth. A more glorious inheritance and a more arduous and inspiring enterprise it is impossible to conceive, and history is not likely again to furnish.

PROGRESS IN SIERRA LEONE.

We have received an interesting pamphlet printed in Sierra Leone, containing an able paper on the condition and prospects of that colony by Hon. Samuel Lewis, a native member of the Legislative Council, with the discussion which followed the reading of it, also by natives. The pamphlet both in its typographical appearance and literary character is a suggestive exponent and index of the progress made in that British colony. The depression of trade in the settlement caused by native wars in the adjacent districts, and the activity of the French and Germans in acquiring territory in Senegambia have roused the inhabitants of Sierra Leone to petition the Home Government to authorize and aid the Colonial Government to take in, with the consent of the natives, the neighboring regions. And they are encouraged to this by the appearance in the contiguous interior of the Settlement of a large aboriginal military force, which has conquered the country from the Upper Niger to the maritime districts near Sierra Leone. The chief, it is said, proposes to place his acquisitions under the control of the British Government, with a view of keeping out the French with whom he has had several battles in the interior. The territories in question are described in the *Sierra Leone Weekly News* (September 26) as follows:

"The producing areas of West Africa, outside the Settlement, are included in a tract of land lying between 7 to 10 degrees north latitude by 10 to 13 degrees west longitude, and cover about 19,160 square-miles, which are equivalent to 12,262,400 acres. This represents a stretch of country 64,059 acres larger than the counties of Devon, Hants, Lancaster, Lincoln, Norfolk, Northumberland and York combined; *i. e.* not quite one half of England, including Wales. The country over which Alimami Sanankoroh or Samudu now holds sway, lies between 9 to 12 degrees north latitude, by 6 to 13 degrees west longitude, and covers about 69,458 square-miles, or 44,-

453,120 acres. The whole tract of contiguous country, therefore open to the merchants of the Colony for produce, covers an area of 88,618 square miles or 56,715,520 acres, *i. e.* only 99,833 acres smaller than Great Britain.

A. M. FESTING,

Sept. 24, 1885.

Major." ,

Liberia with its five hundred miles of coast and two hundred miles interior lies immediately south of this tract of country, and is considered even more fertile than this region.

PRESIDENTS OF LIBERIA.

Name.	Terms.	Years.
Joseph Jenkins Roberts,	4	1848—1856.
Stephen Allen Benson,	4	1856—1864.
Daniel Bashiel Warner,	2	1864—1868.
Edward James Roye,	1	1868—1870.
James Spriggs Payne,	2	1870—1874.
Joseph Jenkins Roberts,	2	1874—1878.
Anthony Williams Gardner,	3	1878—1884.
Hilary Richard Wright Johnson,	1	1884—1886.

Mr. Roberts succeeded Governor Buchanan as Lieut. Governor, Sept. 3, 1841 was appointed Governor by the American Colonization Society, Jan. 20, 1842; administered until the organization of the Republic, January 3, 1848, making 18 years that he was Chief Executive. Mr. Roye was deposed October 26, 1871, and Vice President James S. Smith assumed the Presidency. Mr. Gardner resigned on account of ill health Jan. 26, 1883, and Vice President Alfred F. Russell completed the term. Mr. Johnson is President elect for two years, beginning January 1, 1886.

MARRIAGE OF PRESIDENT JOHNSON.

President H. R. W. Johnson was married at Monrovia, on the evening of August 19, to Mrs. Hannah C. Dimery, widow of a former leading merchant of Liberia. The joyful event took place in the Presbyterian church, Rev. J. W. Blacklidge, rector of Trinity Episcopal church, officiating,—the groom being an Episcopalian and the bride a Presbyterian. A grand reception immediately followed at the Executive mansion.

REGARD FOR LIBERIA.

The following extract from a letter dated Cape Coast, July 22, 1885, is an evidence of the intelligent feeling of respect for and confidence in Liberia:—"I admire Liberia. It bids fair to rival many others in importance, and in material progress and prosperity. It has my best wishes. The civilized world has now its eyes upon Liberia. Although at present only small, there is every reason to believe that in course of time the little Republic will develop into something which will be more pretentious in character."

THE AMERICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY.

The Sixty-Ninth Anniversary of THE AMERICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY will take place in Foundry Methodist E. Church, Washington, D. C., on Sunday evening, January 17th, 1886. at 7.30 o'clock, when the Annual Discourse will be delivered by the Rev. Byron Sunderland, D. D.

The Annual Meeting of the Society for the election of officers and transaction of business will be held at the Colonization Building, No. 450 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D. C., on the next succeeding Tuesday, January 19th, at 3 o'clock P. M.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS will begin their Annual Session at the same place and on the same day, at 12 o'clock M.

LIBERIA HONORING GEN. GRANT'S MEMORY.

At a meeting of the City Council of Monrovia, held on the 17th of September, resolutions of sympathy and condolence with Mrs. U. S. Grant were unanimously adopted and have been forwarded to the bereaved by Mayor King.

General Grant not only fought and won the great battles which decided the question of Negro emancipation in the United States, but insisted upon enlisting Negro troops to help to fight the battles for their freedom. And on his accession to the Presidency, he first appointed Negroes to high diplomatic office—E. D. Bassett to be Minister to Hayti, and J. Milton Turner as Minister to Liberia. It is said that certain members of Congress objected to the appointment of colored men to important positions in the public service, saying that they should first be tried in humbler positions. President Grant's answer to such was, "I tried the blacks under the guns of Petersburg."

Ex-President Grant happened to be in London in 1877 when Rev. Dr. E. W. Blyden, Liberia's first Negro representative, appeared at the Court of St. James. He gave the Liberian Minister an informal reception, surrounded by his family and friends, when he expressed the gratification it afforded him to see Liberia represented at the English Court by one of her own citizens. He also said that during his tour, which he was just commencing, if he could manage it, he would pay the African Republic a visit, as he much desired to see it.—*Sierra Leone Weekly News.*

DEATH OF GABRIEL MOORE, ESQ.

Liberia has sustained a serious loss in the death, on the 6th of August, of one of her leading merchants and foremost citizens, Gabriel Moore, Esq. Mr. Moore emigrated to Liberia from the United States with his father, under the auspices of the American Colonization Society, about fifty years ago, and entered upon commercial business in which he was uniformly successful. He began his business by a residence of some years at Boporo, a trading emporium about seventy-five miles interior of Monrovia, where he formed an intimate acquaintance with the native manners and customs. He was a natural linguist, speaking with ease and fluency all the aboriginal languages spoken in Liberian territory, viz: Vey, Mandingo, Gollah, Pesseh, Dey, Bassa, Kroo, and even Congo. As interpreter, he rendered for many years valuable services to the Government. He was about 71 years old when he died. His eldest son, James E. Moore, Esq., a young man of brilliant talents who graduated at Liberia College in 1867, and served for some time as Secretary of State of the Republic, died 1881 lamented by the nation. Mr. Moore leaves five sons and two daughters. The eldest son surviving, Gabriel Moore, Esq., is engaged in commercial business and will no doubt continue the business which, sound and prosperous, has been left by his father. The next son, Hilary I. Moore, Esq., M. D., is a practicing physician. The youngest son, Urias A. Moore, is in the United States engaged upon professional studies.—*Ibid.*

MAIL STEAMSHIPS FOR LIBERIA.

At the annual session of the Baptist Foreign Mission Convention (colored) held at New Orleans, September 26, the following action was unanimously had, and a copy ordered to be presented to Congress:

The Baptist Foreign Mission in convention assembled at New Orleans, La., do hereby respectfully petition the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled, to authorize the establishment of a line of mail steamships between a port of the United States and a port in the Republic of Liberia, on the west coast of Africa, and to grant an appropriation adequate to support the same.

Your petitioners beg leave to state that the immense natural wealth of Africa, which is attracting the commercial attention of the civilized world, is in no part of that Continent more signally displayed

than in West Africa. As the key to the rich valley of the Niger, Liberia must in time be the natural outlet of the commerce of West Africa.

Moreover, your petitioners would state that as the Liberians are Americans by descent and in tastes, it would promote the growth and prosperity of that youthful nation, and finally prove a mutual benefit to both countries and to *both races* to be allied by steam communication, and thereby aid in Christianizing the Continent for God and to Christ.

RECEIPTS OF THE AMERICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY.

During the Month of September, 1885.

VERMONT (\$34.78.)		FOR REPOSITORY. (\$4.25).	
<i>Essex.</i> Annuity of Nathan Lathrop, by S. G. Butler, Ex: \$35. Less expenses 22 cts.....	34 78	Pennsylvania \$1. Florida \$1. Tennessee \$2 25	4 25
NEW YORK. (\$100.00.)		RECAPITULATION.	
<i>Kingston.</i> A family contribution,	100 00	Donations	102 00
VIRGINIA. (\$2.00.)		Annuity... ..	34 78
<i>Alexandria.</i> Mrs. M. B. Blackford,	2 00	Emigrants towards passage... ..	57 00
FLORIDA. (\$57.00.)		For African Repository	4 25
<i>Gainesville.</i> Jacob Gildersleeve, toward cost of emigrant passage to Liberia... ..	57 00	Rent of Colonization Building.....	167 00
		Interest for School in Liberia... ..	90 00
		Total receipts in September.....	\$455 03

During the month of October, 1885.

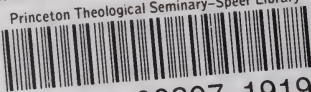
PENNSYLVANIA. (\$25.00.)		RECAPITULATION.	
<i>Philadelphia.</i> F. G. Schultz	25 00	Donation.....	25 00
NORTH CAROLINA. (\$17.50.)		Emigrants toward passage.....	17 50
<i>Forestville.</i> C. B. Green, toward cost of emigrant passage to Liberia	17 50	For African Repository	3 00
FOR REPOSITORY. (\$3.00.)		Rent of Colonization Building	69 00
Georgia \$2. Texas \$1.	3 00	Total receipts in October.....	\$114 50

During the month of November, 1885.

OHIO. (\$100.00)		RECAPITULATION.	
<i>Oxford.</i> Dr. Alexander Guy	100 00	Donation.....	100 00
SOUTH CAROLINA. (\$25.00)		Emigrants toward passage.....	25 00
<i>Darlington.</i> Frank Wearing, toward emigrant passage to Liberia,	25 00	Rent of Colonization building.....	256 00
		Total Receipts in November	\$381 00

I-7 v.57/62
African Repository

Princeton Theological Seminary-Speer Library



1 1012 00307 1919